

"So care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

(ESTABLISHED 1872.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR,
IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING RATES—FLAT.

Guaranteed Weekly Circulation 100,000.
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Sample copies mailed free on request.

McLEARY & SHOPPELL, Proprietors.

ENTERED AT WASHINGTON POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEB. 18, 1904.

Office: 220 Pennsylvania Avenue N. W.

AS THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE goes to press—
—7:30 Monday evening—the sad news comes of Senator Hanna's death. The Nation has lost one of its very ablest and best men.

AMID the turmoil of sinking battleships and bombarded forts, we have, somehow, lost knowledge of the Carolina's ear-ache.

AS ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF has opened the war with Japan by losing 11 armed ships, the Czar has made him Commander-in-Chief not only of the navy but of the army.

THE lack of proper education in Cuba is painfully apparent. For example: those Cubans who threw dirt at the United States flag should have known that they hadn't the privileges of United States Senators.

RUSSIA'S defensive strength has hitherto been in the vastness and poverty of her territory. An invading army wore and starved itself out before it could reach any vital point. The Japanese will not have to do this. They are fighting for something very close at hand, and very distant from Russia, so that they will be a short arm's length while Russia will be beyond the reach of her finger-tips.

WHENEVER they get their innings, and they are sure to get them sooner or later, business laws are more merciless and drastic than those on the statute books. For example: Mr. Chas. Schwab, who last year was one of the Napoleons of finance, has just had to consent to giving up several million dollars of "real money," besides \$500,000 worth of more or less valuable stock, and will have to go into the concern as a plain, common man, sharing equally with the other men who have money in the concern. Mr. Schwab is a type of a number of men who have gone through a similar experience.

QUITE a lively contest is going on with reference to the Pension Agency at Louisville. Ex-Representative Irwin, of Louisville, is a strong candidate, and has filed a stack of endorsements in his own behalf. Patrick H. Dargy, of Princeton, is another applicant, and a third is Maj. W. M. Collier, who is a son of the late Pension Agent. Chairman John W. Yerkes is said to be figuring on a man who will help him personally, belonging neither to the Representative Hunter nor to Ex-Governor Bradley factions. It is asserted that Gen. Basil Duke has a call on the office, which the President once tendered him, and that he can name the successful man.

Gov. LaFollette, of Wisconsin, is making a very bitter warfare upon Representative Babcock of that State, who, in addition to being a most admirable all-around Congressman, is a firm and reliable friend of the veterans. Without any blowing of trumpets, Representative Babcock has been constant and faithful in his service to the old soldiers, and has been of the most decided help to them. It will be a misfortune to all if Gov. LaFollette's tactics prevail, and Mr. Babcock should rally to his assistance and put his success beyond doubt.

THE ELECTION of Isidor Rayner as Senator from Maryland effectually disposes of Senator Gorman's leadership, more's the pity. From the moment that Senator Gorman started out to be a leader and the rising man in the Democratic party, he began to guess wrong, and he kept making worse guesses every time. His first bad break was his not knowing that the people of the South were in favor of the Panama Canal; the next was that the National campaign could be run on the denunciation of the negro, and the last was in his choice of a Senator as his colleague from Maryland. His choice was Bernard Carter, who was not even a good third in the race, being led by Ex-Governor J. Walter Smith, who was in turn led by Rayner, the successful candidate. It looks as if Gorman's leadership would have to go into dry-dock for complete overhauling and repairs, lasting over the coming campaign.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

The conflict between Japan and Russia came at last and came with Japan taking a sharp initiative that startled the world. Her fleet immediately attacked the Russians, and up to date it is reported that the Russians have lost 11 armored ships, two of which were battleships. The total may not be so large as this, but it is certainly large enough to greatly cripple Russia, if not lose her the command of the sea, which is most important. The Russians claim that they were taken unawares, but this is as silly as the pretext of the Carolina's ear-ache. They knew as well as the Japs that war was imminent, and they should have been ready for it. The probability now is that Russia is on the brink of an administrative breakdown such as she experienced in the Crimean War, when she was shown to be a great big, clumsy hulk, rotten and paralytic in the extremities. One phase of this is that she has been holding out that she had 250,000 men in the far East, whereas it begins to be apparent that she may not have more than 50,000, and those not at all well armed or supplied. If the Japs continue the vigorous initiative they have begun, the war will not last long.

THE LIMIT OF COST OF THE SERVICE PENSION.

The most exaggerated and alarming statements as to the probable cost of the Service Pension Bill are being sent broadcast over the country with the purpose of exciting opposition to the passage of that measure. While it is impossible to tell exactly what it will cost, yet we can know the very limit of its cost, and that limit is far below the figures that have been boldly asserted. Some newspapers have published the annual expense as high as \$200,000,000, while the lowest of them have not estimated under \$50,000,000. Even this latter figure can be shown to be a very great exaggeration. We can well begin by taking the first great factor in the calculation, that of raising those on the pension roll at present below \$12 per month, to that figure.

The following table shows the number of pensioners under the old law at ratings below \$12 per month, and the additional cost to the Government of raising them all to that rating:

INVALIDS.			
Monthly Rate.	No.	Present Annual Cost	Additional Annual Cost under proposed law.
\$2.00	4	\$8.00	\$480.00
3.00	1	36.00	1080.00
4.00	8	360.00	7680.00
5.00	7	420.00	5880.00
6.00	37,410	2,638,200.00	2,693,520.00
6.25	14	1,650.00	966.00
6.50	2	180.00	135.00
6.75	1	81.00	63.00
7.00	37	3,108.00	2,220.00
7.50	236	21,240.00	12,744.00
7.75	4	372.00	264.00
8.00	34,156	2,783,952.00	1,639,488.00
8.25	8	720.00	360.00
8.50	306	31,212.00	12,852.00
8.75	1	103.50	40.50
9.00	212	2,388.00	1,056.00
9.25	5	555.00	165.00
9.50	16	1,824.00	480.00
9.75	5	585.00	135.00
10.00	23,739	2,848,980.00	569,736.00
10.25	1	122.40	21.60
10.50	14	1,764.00	242.00
10.75	2	175.50	16.50
11.00	51	6,732.00	612.00
11.25	165	22,275.00	1,455.00
11.50	3	408.00	24.00
11.75	14	1,932.00	84.00
11.90	11	1,551.00	33.00
	96,450	8,943,131.40	4,945,658.00

WIDOWS.			
Monthly Rate.	No.	Present Annual Cost	Additional Annual Cost under proposed law.
\$8.00	114	\$10,944.00	\$5,472.00
10.00	4	480.00	96.00
	118	11,424.00	5,568.00

The following table shows the number of pensioners under the Act of June 27, 1890, at ratings below \$12 per month, and the additional cost to the Government of raising them all to that rating:

INVALIDS.			
Monthly Rate.	No.	Present Annual Cost	Additional Annual Cost under proposed law.
\$6.00	87,984	\$6,334,948.00	\$6,334,948.00
7.00	2	168.00	120.00
7.50	4	360.00	216.00
8.00	141,203	13,555,488.00	6,777,744.00
9.00	1	114.00	57.00
10.00	53,744	6,449,280.00	1,288,856.00
11.00	1	138.00	6.00
	282,869	26,340,306.00	14,402,820.00

WIDOWS.			
Monthly Rate.	No.	Present Annual Cost	Additional Annual Cost under proposed law.
\$8.00	50	\$4,800.00	\$2,400.00
10.00	1	120.00	24.00
	51	4,920.00	2,424.00

Total Invalids 169
Total Widows 51
Total Present Cost \$35,250,871.40
Total Additional Cost 19,356,470.00

This shows that the very limit of the expense of putting everyone at present on the roll below \$12 per month up to that figure, cannot cost more than \$19,356,470.00. It will certainly cost a great deal less than that amount. If the age limit is made a part of the bill, it will cut off very many thousands who are still under 62, and this will reduce the cost by several millions of dollars. This item is so settled and determinate, that there can be no mistake about the matter, and all uncertainty is as to the amount of the reduction from the gross sum of \$19,356,470.00, which figures up upon a study of the present pension roll.

The next item is as to the number of survivors of the war of the rebellion now pensioned, but who will claim a pension under the act. There is the widest variety of estimates as to the number of these. The estimates range all the way from 100,000 to 250,000, with the authority of the Record and Pension Bureau of the War Department for there being this year 458,002 veterans alive. There were last year 709,456 veterans on the pension roll. Deducting this number from the total number alive, would leave a total of 154,544.

If there are this number alive—which the best statisticians gravely doubt—and if all are 62 years old, were honorably discharged, and had each served 90 days or more in the war of the rebellion and should all claim their pensions, it would cost \$22,254,624. This, added to the above amount for those already on the pension roll, would make a total cost of the bill the first year \$41,011,094. It cannot possibly be any more than this unless the War Department and the Pension Bureau are grossly deceived as to the number of veterans yet alive, which is so improbable as to be hardly worth mentioning. The best opinion is that there are only 125,000 unpensioned veterans alive.

Now from this gross total of \$41,011,094 must be made a number of highly important deductions. First, are the very many thousands who will be shut out the first year on account of being below the age limit, which it seems certain will be put in the bill. This item alone will reduce the sum total many millions. Next, there must be a number, quite large in the aggregate who have some defect in their discharges which will exclude them from the operations of the law. Thirdly, there are very many thousands of the survivors who are now in such comfortable circumstances that they will not apply for pensions. This will save the Government many millions, especially in the first years of the operation of the bill. A most important item is that it will save possibly \$2,000,000 in the cost of running the Pension Bureau. At present the Pension Bureau is expending from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 in fees for Examining Surgeons. As after the passage of the bill the only duties of such Surgeons will be to examine the very few who claim disabilities of service origin, and those who think that the disabilities for which they have been pensioned have been increased by age, the present enormous fees will be reduced to a few thousand dollars. The Pension Bureau is also expending from \$300,000 to \$500,000 a year for Special Examiners—traveling agents, who go about the country investigating claims and the capacity of the claimant to perform manual labor, industriously gathering up neighborhood gossip as to his character, habits, etc., etc. These are paid, in addition to their salaries as clerks, \$3 a day and their traveling expenses. This will be rendered unnecessary by the passage of the law, and they can devote themselves to clerical duties inside the Pension Office, so that the efficiency of the Bureau will be increased, while its expenses will probably be cut down \$2,000,000 a year. Taking all these facts into consideration, it does not seem at all probable that the cost of the service pension the first year can be in excess of \$25,000,000. In all human probability it will be several millions under that.

Remember, this is for the first year. The next startling fact is that the soldiers are dying at the rate of at least 50,000 a year. Fifty thousand pensioners at \$12 per month, or \$144 a year, is \$7,200,000, which large sum will be wiped off the pension roll each year by merciless retractor of Government expenses—grim DEATH. There cannot be any further increase of the pension roll, because the material will be exhausted, and death will be at his swift work in the reduction of those already on the roll, carrying off every year a larger army than Sheridan had in the Valley, Grant at Vicksburg, or Rosecrans at Chickamauga and Stone River. Without any aid from the enemies of the pension roll, without any efforts on the part of narrow, prejudiced, and cruel Commissioners like Lochran and Evans, Death will "save the Treasury" every year \$7,200,000 from the pension appropriations, and each year the amount so saved will be greatly increased by the rapid rise in the mortality rate of the aged men and women.

The maximum of pension expenditures will be reached the first year that the law goes into operation, and thereafter pension expenditures will be reduced at a rate appalling to every patriotic man who loves and honors the men whose courage and devotion saved the Union, and very gratifying to those who hated the cause for which those men fought, and the men who fought for it.

MULTIPLICITY OF BILLS.

There is great danger in the multiplicity of pension bills being introduced into Congress. Unquestionably a large number of these are introduced for the sole purpose of defeating the Service Pension Bill. They hope to do this by distracting and diverting the veterans from the support of the G. A. R. Pension Bill, and by making such extravagant provisions as will call down the censure of the press which will include all pension bills in one general condemnation.

Comrades can not be too careful to be on their guard in regard to the insidious character of many of these bills.

It is astonishing how soon the Senate got all the information it wanted in regard to Panama, particularly the Democrats, and more particularly Senator Gorman. The President simply sent them the files of the State Department, and that was enough.

COMPARATIVE EXTENT OF JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

The Russian Empire has a total area in Europe and Asia of 6,998,336 square miles, or two and two-thirds that of the United States exclusive of Alaska. Japan has an area of 147,080 square miles, or somewhat less than the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan combined. Russia has a population of 129,000,000, while Japan's population is 44,200,000, but Russia's population is thinly scattered over her vast area, with the thickly-settled portions on the other side of the world from her Pacific coast. The bulk of the Russians are in Europe, while the Pacific coast which fronts toward Japan, is 6,000 miles away over a desolate, wild, unsettled stretch of prairie connected by only one line of newly-constructed and very poorly-equipped railroad. A large portion of this population of Russia is still in a savage or semi-savage state, and is of little avail in strengthening the Empire. The Russians in Europe, who are the best part of the people, are probably a century behind the rest of Europe in most things relating to material advancement. On the other hand, Japan's 44,000,000 people are crowded into a very compact territory, situated within easy reach of the seat of war. They are all active, industrious, skillful people, highly civilized according to the Asiatic idea of civilization. Their value as fighting men in conflict with Europeans remains to be determined. They are unquestionably the best of the yellow men, whereas the Russians are the poorest of the white men.

The Russians have in their active army 38,412 officers and 1,070,458 men, with 173,400 horses and 820 guns. They have, of course, almost limitless resources to back up this active army, and on paper can put something like 12,000,000 men in the field. The difficulty will be, however, to get any great portion of this immense horde to the seat of war, and to supply them after they are there.

The last public statement gave Japan an active army of 8,016 officers and 158,214 men, with about 300,000 reserves, more or less drilled and ready for duty. These, however, are all right at hand, and can easily be thrown into Korea and Manchuria, if Japan secures the control of the sea. This makes the relative strength of the navies of the first importance.

The last statement gives the following as the number of Russia's effective ships in the Baltic Sea and elsewhere:

Battleships	12
Armored cruisers	17
Cruisers	17
Torpedo gunboats	3
Destroyers	53
Torpedo boats	20
Sub-marines	2

Besides these she has nine battleships, four gunboats and six destroyers in the Black Sea, where it is a question if they will be allowed to come out.

The last statement gives the Japanese navy as follows:

Battleships	6
Armored cruisers	6
Cruisers	14
Torpedo gunboats	20
Destroyers	47
Torpedo boats	47

Japan has the great advantage, however, of having all her ships at home and under hand; to concentrate upon that portion of the Russian fleet in Asiatic waters.

HONESTY THE RULE.

The New York World says: "That many of the 90-days men never heard a shot fired in anger" is not the chief objection to a service pension. That his military record is a positive advantage to a veteran in the public service, and elsewhere no disadvantage, is reason enough for opposing the service pension, but it is not the chief objection. "Has not our country scandals enough crying for reformation, sufficient evil tendencies and malign influences demanding change, without wasting millions of the people's money to buy the soldier's vote?" This is as erroneous as a New York paper almost invariably is in regard to pensions. While possibly some of the three-months men did not hear "shots fired in anger," very many thousands of them did hear a great many "shots fired in anger," and did extraordinary hard fighting.

There is to be no scandal connected with the service pension. It is honest payment for services rendered. It will go directly to the people who rendered the services, and not a dollar will stick to the hands of other persons. There has never been any real scandal connected with the disbursement of pensions. There have been the most frantic efforts to cause scandal, but these efforts have usually ended in humiliating failures for those who promulgated them. In all of the United States disbursements, there has been far less dishonesty and fraud in the pension expenditures than in any other.

THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH concludes an editorial as follows:

"The pension expenditures of the United States are now greater than the entire army budgets of either Germany or Russia. If this proposition were enacted into legislation, our pension expenditure alone would exceed the whole army expenditure of any military empire in Europe, including standing armies of over half a million men."

This is simply untrue. The pension expenditures of the United States do not exceed or even approach the military expenditures of Russia or Germany, as the Dispatch will easily ascertain by examining any book of reference. Even if they did, that would have no bearing on the case, since the pension expenditures of the United States represent a longer service and aggregate of far harder fighting than all the European armies have done in nearly a century. More men were killed, wounded and disabled in our war than in all the wars of Europe since the battle of Waterloo, or within the lifetime of any man now alive.

PENNSYLVANIA "Grit," a paper published at Williamsport, Pa., is out in a vicious editorial against the service pension bill, which it denounces with a plentiful lack of knowledge of the pension system of the United States. It does not know that it has been the unbroken custom of the Government to pension the survivors of all wars after the lapse of a number of years. This act of justice is now due the survivors of the greatest, bloodiest, and most exhausting war in which any country ever engaged, and if ever man earned a pension in the service of his country, those whom this bill is intended to benefit deserve all that can be given them. "Grit" not only shows its cynical measures, but its lack of knowledge of the history of the country.

ITALIAN school teachers are paid only from one cent to 19 cents a day. Judging from the immigrants from Italy, they do not earn even that.

200 KLEGG, Thorty and their Comrades in the days "When Johnny Came Marching Home."

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The Delightful Camps Around Raleigh—Discontent of the Volunteers in Camp—Marching Orders at Last—On the Road to Washington.

Not long was it possible for an American volunteer to remain contented in any camp, no matter how pleasant it might be. He was not, never could be made, a regular soldier, enlisted for a specified term, and anxious to spend that term as comfortably as possible. The volunteer had only enlisted to do a certain piece of work, and his dominant thought was to finish it up as quickly as possible, and get back to more congenial pursuits and surroundings. The camp was the regular soldier's home. It was merely the volunteer's temporary abiding place, and never could be made to appear anything else. The camps around Raleigh, N. C., had every comfort—luxuries even—that any reasonable soldier could desire. They were far superior to any that the



THE RACE TO WASHINGTON BEGINS.

men had previously known. The active-minded American volunteer, when he had to learn the great trade of war, bent all his energies to it, and in time became past master of his profession. The art of campaigning was a great part of that trade, and every day he was in the army the volunteer's skill became more perfect. Therefore, the camps on Stone River, around Chattanooga, on the Tennessee, showed an immense advance over the Stone River camps, and they all stood in most disadvantageous comparison with the work of the seasoned and practiced veterans in the Spring of 1865, in the camps around Raleigh, on the Neuse.

At last a point was reached where military nicety, the requirements of comfort and convenience, the suggestions of tactical advantage, and the demands of the trade, and every day he was in the army the volunteer's skill became more perfect. Therefore, the camps on Stone River, around Chattanooga, on the Tennessee, showed an immense advance over the Stone River camps, and they all stood in most disadvantageous comparison with the work of the seasoned and practiced veterans in the Spring of 1865, in the camps around Raleigh, on the Neuse.

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The 200th Ind. had always been noted for its discipline and appearance in the field at the hour set for the march to begin, but it surpassed its very own record this time. Before 7 o'clock every man belonging to it was in line in his company street, awaiting the bugle. The 200th Ind. had never emptied. An expected battle could not have brought about more rapid convalescence of the patients.

At the close of the bugle the companies rushed onto the parade ground, the battalion line was instantly formed, and as instantly started off to take its place at the head of the column upon the main road leading northward.

The long race of the corps of Sherman's Army for Washington, 300 miles away, was begun. The corps which had marched thousands of miles, and were justly boastful of their ability to cover ground, were now to be let loose as so many race-horses with the Capital of the Nation and HOME for their goal.

The long rest, the delightful weather and abundant rations had put everybody in the best condition and full of mettle. The sun was shining brightly, the roads fairly good—for the South.

Now, you bog-stomping Hoosiers," shouted Maj. Bowersox, as he rode up to the head of the column, and the band stopped playing. "Ain't I glad to get out of the Wilderness?" "these Wolverines, Badgers, Buckeyes and Suckers say that they can outmarch you. Let's see who'll shake hands with President Johnson first."